

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 /045 W
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O 151024Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6085

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA IMMEDIATE

DISTENGR MEDIV RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

PM SANG MODERNIZATION RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JIDDA 6765

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OVIP, SA, US (CLEMENTS)

SUBJECT: DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS MIDDLE EAST TRIP

REF (A) TELEX, COL FIFER TO BG LAWRENCE,

(B) DEPSECDEF MSG DTG 142239Z OCT 76

1. DEPSECDEF'S PROPOSAL (PER REF A) THAT HE AND HIS PARTY BYPASS JIDDA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM AND APPROPRIATE SANG OFFICIALS. IN LIGHT OF THIS, SAUDI PREFERENCE AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT THE DEPSECDEF SHOULD PLAN TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO RIYADH FROM ABROAD, ARRIVING AS ORIGINAL Y SCHEDULED ON 21 OCTOBER (IT APPEARED PRINCE ABDULLAH WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE IN JIDDA FOR DEPSECDEF'S ARRIVAL, AND THAT DINNER ON OCT 20TH WOULD BE HOSTED BY LOWER LEVEL GUARD REPRESENTATIVE IN PRINCE'S NAME)

2. THERE WERE TWO REASONS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION. FIRST, SHOULD THE DEPSECDEF ARRIVE EARLY IN RIYADH, THE SANG WOULD FEEL OBLIGATED TO ORGANIZE AN ITINERARY AND SUITABLE ENTERTAINMENT FOR HIM AND HIS PARTY, ON THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THE TWENTIETH. THIS THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO DO AND IT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE TO HRH PRINCE 'ABDULLAH. SECONDLY,

THE EVER PRESENT PROBLEM OF HOTEL SPACE. AT THIS LATE DATE, EVEN THE SANG WOULD HAVE EXTREME DIDDICULTY IN DISPOSSESSING THE WELL-CONNECTED PERSONS WHO ARE OCCUPHING THE SPACE IN THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON 20 OCTOBER.

3. REFERENCE B WAS RECEIVED AFTER THE DISCUSSION. THE POSSIBILITY OF BYPASSING JIDDA BY DELAYING THE DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUS LOCATION UNTIL EARLY ON 21 OCTOBER IS THEREFORE STILL AVAILABLE. ADDITIONALLY, SHOULD DEPSECDEF GO DIRECTLY TO RIYADH AND THE LADIES IN THE PARTY STILL WISH TO VISIT JIDDA DURING ANY PROTION OF THE SECRETARY'S STAY IN SAUDI ARABIA, WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN THEM SUITABLY.

4. REQUEST YOU ADVISE US OF DEPSECDEF'S DESIRES BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, 16 OCTOBER. WHETHER DEPSECDEF WISHES (A) TO PROCEED DIRECTLY TO RIYADH ON OCTOBER 21 OR (B) REVERT TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE WITH ETA AND RON JIDDA OCTOBER 20TH. POSSIBILITY OF REVERTING TO OPTION (B) HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED AS YET TO SANG, BUT WOULD NOT WE BELIEVE INCONVENIENCE THEM. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING THE LADIES' PLANS.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA06765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760387-1155
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761049/aaaabpqq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <11 JAN 2005 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS MIDDLE EAST TRIP
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, SA, US, XF, (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM P JR)
To: DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006